

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 15006 01 OF 02 102026Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
EA-10 FRB-03 INR-10 IO-13 NEA-11 NSAE-00 ICA-11
OPIC-03 SP-02 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 AGRE-00
OMB-01 SS-15 /111 W
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R 102007Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1328

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 15006

USOECD

PASS EUR/RPE (LAASE)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: APER, OECD
SUBJECT: RENEWAL OF SIX FIXED-TERM APPOINTEMENTS
IN THE ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS DIRECTORATE OF OECD

REF: (A) C(77)178, (B) EXD/P(78)5

1. SECRETARIAT HAS CIRCULATED DOCUMENT SCB/78.8 FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE BUDGET COMMITTEE WITH RESPECT TO THE REQUESTED EXTENSION OF SIX FIXED-TERM APPOINTMENTS (THREE PROFESSIONALS; THREE B-LEVELS) IN THE ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS DIRECTORATE (ESD), WHICH ARE SCHEDULED TO EXPIRE AT THE END OF 1978. THESE POSITIONS WERE NOMINALLY CREATED TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE MCCrackEN GROUP. THE SECRETARIAT EXPLAINS THAT THE COMPLETION OF THE MCCrackEN REPORT WAS ONLY THE FIRST STEP IN THE SECRETARIAT'S INTENSIFIED PROGRAM OF WORK ON MEDIUM-TERM ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND THAT THESE SIX POSITIONS ARE CRUCIAL TO THE SECRETARIAT'S
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PAGE 02 PARIS 15006 01 OF 02 102026Z

ABILITY TO CONTINUE ITS PRESENT LEVEL OF WORK IN THAT AREA. THE SECRETARIAT REQUESTS EARLY EXTENSION OF THE POSITION SINCE THE UNCERTAINTY CREATED BY THE IMMINENT EXPIRATION OF CONTRACTS IS LIKELY TO RESULT IN SERIOUS PERSONNEL DISRUPTION.

2. IN PRESENTATION TO THE BUDGET COMMITTEE AND

IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH MISSION OFFICERS, HEAD OF ESD (FAY) CLAIMS THAT MEDIUM-TERM AND STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT WORK NOW BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE SECRETARIAT WILL HAVE TO BE SEVERELY CURTAILED IF REQUESTED EXTENSIONS NOT GRANTED. HE SAYS THAT THE WORK THUS FAR ON THE REVISED WP-2 MEDIUM-TERM SCENARIO, ALBEIT INADEQUATE, WAS ONLY POSSIBLE BECAUSE THESE POSITIONS EXISTED. HE CITES THE FACT THAT THE A2/3 POSITIONS INVOLVED ARE VACANT AS THE INCUMBENTS HAVE SOUGHT GREATER JOB SECURITY AND THAT THESE VACANCIES ARE ALREADY CUTTING INTO THE QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF THE SUPPORT PROVIDED TO WP-2. REPLACEMENTS WILL BE DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE, TO RECRUIT, IF PRESENT EXPIRATION DATE OF DEC. 31, 1978 IS NOT EXTENDED.

3. THE SECRETARIAT INFORMS US THAT A4 POSITION INVOLVED IS HELD BY AN EXCELLENT INCUMBENT, A GERMAN NATIONAL, WHOM ESD WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO KEEP IN HIS PRESENT POSITION. VACANT A2/3 POSITIONS (REFDOC B, POUCHED) PRESENT AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO ADD QUALIFIED AMERICANS TO THE ESD STAFF IN THE CRUCIAL AREA OF GROWTH AND MEDIUM-TERM PROBLEMS IF POSITIONS RENEWED. FYI GIVEN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, SECRETARIAT WILL

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PAGE 01 PARIS 15006 02 OF 02 102024Z
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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
EA-10 FRB-03 INR-10 IO-13 NEA-11 NSAE-00 ICA-11
OPIC-03 SP-02 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 AGRE-00
OMB-01 SS-15 /111 W
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ONLY OFFER SHORT-TERM APPOINTMENTS TO EXPIRE
DEC. 31, 1978. END FYI. THE THREE OTHER POSITIONS

ARE SUPPORT STAFF, TWO RESEARCH ASSISTANTS (B4S) AND ONE SECRETARY (B3).

4. MISSION AGREES WITH SECRETARIAT THAT (A) RESOURCES ARE STRETCHED THIN IN ESD AND (B) UNLESS WE ARE PREPARED TO ACCEPT SOME CUTS IN THE WORK PROGRAM, WE SHOULD SUPPORT RENEWAL OF THESE FIXED-TERM CONTRACTS. WE FEEL, HOWEVER, THAT IN THE INTEREST OF ESTABLISHED OECD BUDGET PROCEDURE IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO PROVIDE NOW FOR FIXED-TERM RENEWAL WITH THE PROVISOR THAT SECRETARY-GENERAL REQUEST THEY BE MADE PERMANENT IN CONJUNCTION WITH THIS FALL'S REGULAR BUDGET CYCLE. THIS PROPOSAL IS SUPPORTED BY SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS CONCERNED.

5. GIVEN PRIORITY USG INTEREST IN ON-GOING WORK OF ESD AND TIGHT STAFF CIRCUMSTANCES IN THAT DEPARTMENT, MISSION PLANS IN COURSE OF MAY 11 BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING TO STRONGLY SUPPORT RENEWAL OF THE SIX POSITIONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 PARIS 15006 02 OF 02 102024Z

IN QUESTION FOR A FURTHER FIXED PERIOD (TWO OR THREE YEARS) AND REQUEST THAT THE QUESTION OF CONVERTING THE FIXED APPOINTMENTS TO PERMANENT POSITIONS BE ADDRESSED AT LEAST 1-1/2 YEARS BEFORE THE TERMINATION OF THE EXTENDED PERIOD, PREFERABLY DURING 1979 BUDGET CYCLE.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: MISSION WILL FOLLOW STRATEGY PER PARA 5 ABOVE UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED. KATZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PARIS15006
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780199-0108
Format: TEL
From: PARIS USOECD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780574/aaaackoj.tel
Line Count: 151
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 254930a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2735815
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RENEWAL OF SIX FIXED-TERM APPOINTEMENTS IN THE ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS DIRECTORATE OF OECD
TAGS: APER, OECD
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/254930a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014